

particular piece of legislation. And this amendment is LB 466, as amended by the Transportation Committee. As you remember, last year we dealt, on the floor of the Legislature, the issues of railroad grade crossing safety, the problem of block crossings and so on. At that point in time I pledged to the Legislature I'd enter into a study throughout the summer, and I brought together various people from the industry, from county government, city government to look at the issues of crossing safety, block crossings and what we were going to do off into the future. As a result of those meetings throughout the summer LB 466 was drafted, was introduced and was heard by the committee and was advanced out of the Transportation Committee. What...this committee really does consists of people from the first class city, we'll have a representative from the second class cities, someone from the villages, we'll have somebody from the railroad safety districts, two from the railroad industry, one from Operation Lifesaver, a county highway superintendent, a county board member, the highway users group, one from the public at large, and our director...state engineer will represent the Governor and serve as the chair of this committee. What the committee is going to do is spend the next year, and there's an ending group or an ending date on this, this committee is going to cease to exist the first of January of 1997. And what the committee is designed to do is to come up with some recommendations for this Legislature on what we should do with crossings. This is not a group that's going to implement this stuff, they're going to bring back to us and try to work out the very delicate balance of what do you do with block crossings, what are we going to do with possible grade separations, what are we going to do for public awareness. As you know, we've got the busiest rail corridor in the world setting in central Nebraska, and this committee is designed to begin to address those issues. Again, this committee is not going to be implementing any policy. They are going to begin to meet. We're going to use the existing Department of Roads as just a place to meet, as a place to coordinate, to serve as a chair so we don't set up a whole new bureaucracy of doing this. This committee did come out of committee and I did want to bring this to the Legislature. I think this is one that's probably in the future, it's something that we can get started. Hopefully they'll meet throughout this year and report back to us next year what things we can look at, but we did put an ending date because we don't want them to last forever, we don't want this to become a permanent commission or anything like that, so it does have an existence...or it will cease to exist the first of